

CLAIMS:

1 1. A pallet for use in packing an appliance comprising:
2 a first support member having a first attachment means for attachment to the
3 appliance;
4 a second support member having a second attachment means for attachment to the
5 appliance; and
6 at least one cross member including a first end and second end, the first end
7 attached to the first support member and the second end attached to the second support member.

1 2. The pallet of claim 1 wherein the first and second support members and the cross
2 member are manufactured from a synthetic substance.

1 3. The pallet of claim 1 wherein the first and second support members and the cross
2 member are manufactured from polypropylene.

1 4. The pallet of claim 1 wherein the first and second support members and cross
2 member are manufactured from polyethylene.

1 5. The pallet of claim 1 wherein the first and second support members and the cross
2 member are substantially hollow.

1 6. The pallet of claim 5 wherein the first and second support members and the cross
2 member are filled with foam.

1 7. The pallet of claim 5 wherein the first and second support members and the cross
2 member contain interior support members.

1 8. The pallet of claim 7 wherein the interior support members are curved.

1 9. The pallet of claim 1 wherein the first end of the cross member is attached to the
2 center of the first support member and the second end of the cross member is attached to the
3 center of the second support member.

1 10. The pallet of claim 1 wherein the attachment means further comprises a hole and
2 a retaining bolt.

1 11. The pallet of claim 1 wherein the attachment means further comprises an
2 adhesive.

1 12. A pallet for use in the manufacture and transportation of an appliance comprising: 2
2 a first support member having a hole through which the appliance is fastened with
3 a first retaining bolt;
4 a second support member having a hole through which the appliance is fastened
5 with a second retaining bolt;
6 a first cross member connecting the first and second support members; and
7 a second cross member connecting the first and second support members.

1 13. The pallet of claim 12, wherein the first and second support members and the first
2 and second cross members are extruded.

1 14. The pallet of claim 12 wherein the first and second support members and the first
2 and second cross members are cast.

1 15. The pallet of claim 12 wherein the first cross member is directly adjacent the
2 second cross member.

1 16. The pallet of claim 12 wherein the first cross member and the second cross
2 member are separated by a predetermined distance.

1 17. A corner support structure for use in the packing of an appliance, comprising:
2 a substantially tubular first lobe connected to a substantially tubular second lobe
3 by an angular beam.

1 18. The corner support structure of claim 17 wherein the angular beam comprises two
2 planar surfaces connected at approximately 90 degrees.

1 19. The corner support structure of claim 17 wherein the angular beam includes a
2 corner loop.

1 20. The corner support structure of claim 17 wherein the first lobe contains an interior
2 support member.

1 21. The corner support structure of claim 20 wherein the interior support member is
2 curved.

1 22. The corner support structure of claim 17 wherein the corner support supports a
2 vertical corner of the appliance.

1 23. The corner support structure of claim 17 wherein the corner support structure
2 supports a horizontal corner of the appliance.

1 24. The corner support structure of claim 17 wherein the corner support structure is
2 interposed in the walls of a shipping container and wherein the shipping container surrounds the
3 appliance.

1 25. The corner support structure of claim 17 wherein the first lobe, the second lobe
2 and the angular beam form an interior and an exterior of the corner support structure and wherein
3 the exterior is directly adjacent to a container and the interior is directly adjacent to the
4 appliance.

1 26. A spacing support for contacting a container and protecting protrusions of an
2 appliance comprising:

3 a tubular member of a predefined length;
4 the tubular member having a contact surface for contacting the container; and
5 an attachment surface for contacting the appliance.

1 27. The spacing support member of claim 26 wherein the contact surface is planar.

1 28. The spacing support member of claim 26 wherein the contact surface is curved.

1 29. The spacing support member of claim 26 wherein the contact surface is angular.

1 30. The spacing support member of claim 26 wherein the tubular member includes an
2 interior support member.

1 31. The corner support structure of claim 30 wherein the interior support member is
2 curved.

1 32. The spacing support member of claim 26 wherein the tubular member includes
2 two interior support members.

1 33. A packing system for supporting an appliance in a container comprising:
2 a pallet;
3 the pallet including a first support member and a second support member;
4 the first support member having a first attachment means for attachment to the
5 appliance;
6 the second support member having a second attachment means for attachment to
7 the appliance;
8 at least one corner support; and
9 the corner support including a substantially tubular first lobe and a substantially
10 tubular second lobe connected by an angular beam.

1 34. The packing system of claim 33 wherein the pallet and the corner support are
2 plastic.

1 35. The packing system of claim 33 wherein the pallet and the corner support contain
2 at least one interior support member.

1 36. The packing system of claim 35 wherein the support member is curved.

1 37. The packing system structure of claim 33 wherein the corner support is located on
2 a corner of the appliance.

1 38. The packing system structure of claim 33 wherein the corner support is located
2 within the container.

1 39. The packing system structure of claim 33 wherein a plurality of corner supports
2 are located on corners of the appliance.

1 40. The packing system structure of claim 33 wherein the corner support is interposed
2 in the walls the container.

1 41. A method for packing an appliance comprising the steps of:
2 providing a pallet including
3 a first support member;
4 at least one cross member including a first and second end, the first end attached
5 to the first support member;
6 a second support member attached to the second end of the at least one cross
7 member;
8 the first and second support members having and attachment means for attaching
9 the appliance to the pallet; and
10 attaching the appliance to the pallet.

1 42. The method of claim 41 further comprising the additional steps of:
2 providing at least one corner support including a generally tubular first lobe
3 connected to a generally tubular second lobe by an angular beam; and
4 positioning the corner support on the appliance.

1 43. The method of claim 42 wherein the shipping container surrounds the appliance
2 and the corner support.

1 44. The method of claim 42 wherein the pallet and the corner support member
2 structure are polypropylene.

1 45. The method of claim 42 wherein the pallet and the corner support member
2 structure are polyethylene.

1 46. The method of claim 43 further comprising the steps of:
2 providing a spacing support structure including a tubular standoff; and
3 positioning the standoff such that it contacts and extends past an outside wall of
4 the appliance and contacts an inside wall of the container.

1 47. A method of manufacturing and using a corner support for shipping an appliance 7
2 comprising:
3 extruding a corner support from plastic; and
4 positioning the corner support adjacent the appliance and within a shipping
5 container.

1 48. The method of claim 47 wherein the corner support includes a generally tubular
2 first lobe connected to a generally tubular second lobe by an angular beam.

1 49. A corner support structure for use in the packing of an appliance, comprising:
2 a hollow angular channel of a predetermined length; and
3 the channel including at least one internal support vane.

1 50. The corner support structure of claim 49 wherein the channel and the support are
2 plastic.

1 51. The corner support structure of claim 49 wherein the channel and the support are
2 extruded.

3

4